CONTINENTAL PIONEER COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA, SOUTH AFRICA OFFICE

Bi-Annual Report Covering the Period between 17 November 2007 and 27 July 2008 (Recorded under the Minutes of 25th to 28th Committee Meetings):

9.1.0 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

1.1 The Committee had four formal meetings during this period and copies of its minutes were shared with the International Teaching Centre and the Continental Board of Counsellors Central Office.

9.2.0 **INTERNATIONAL PIONEERING**: The cases known to our Committee are:

2.1 **From other Continents to Africa**:

- **Mr. Friedrich W. Affolter** who went to Angola as a pioneer and his family could not join him so far is looking for an alternative place to pioneer where his family can join him. Our Committee has been in touch with him and encouraging him to look for other work opportunities in Angola or other countries where Portuguese is commonly used.
- **Mr. Mehran** and **Mrs. Joyce Ann Akhtarkhavari** went as pioneers to Zambia**.**
- **Miss Lewam Assefaw** accepted employment in Namibia and plans to be there from May 2008 to May 2009.
- **Mr. Nason Azizi** is exploring the possibility of serving as a pioneer in Uganda
- **Mr. Cory Thomas Baddeley** is planning to work with Peace Corps in Tanzania.
- **Mr. Hugo and Mrs. Daniela Bayo** of Spain, who were pioneers in China offered to pioneer to Africa. **C**ounsellors Makhele and Lozano recommended Equatorial Guinea or Angola for their pioneering. Eventually they agreed to pioneer to Angola. When they almost got their visa and were ready to go to Angola due to unforeseen changes in their family situation they decided to go back to China.
- **Mr. Dayyán Moreira Batista Brandão**, a pioneer from Brazil to Sao Tome and Principe will be relocating to France upon the completion of his services in Sao Tome.
- **Miss Narisa Bujold** of Canada went to Swaziland for a short term service in May 2008.
- **Mrs. Deborah Chicurel Conow** accompanied his son who came for a year of service to Namibia. She offered to spend the first month with him.
- **Shahbaz Vikram Lee Fawbush** family and their mother **Mrs. Nasrin Boroumand** offered to pioneer to Madagascar for three years. **Mrs. Razafimbelo Fanjaniaina** will be returning to Madagascar together with Fawbush family.
- **Mr. Koorosh Derakhshan** of Canada went to Zambia to work at Banani School

- **Mr. Dashiel T** and **Mrs. Pamela Douglas** of USA went to South Africa as pioneers.
- **Mr. Sam** and **Mrs. Azadeh Khadem** of USA offered to serve for a year in Africa. They are considering Zambia as a possibility.
- **Mr. Kumar Khianra** of Canada offered to serve as a short-term pioneer in Ghana.
- **Mr. Ardin Lalui** of Ireland went to South Africa. He showed interest in pioneering to Mozambique. Our Committee did not recommend it at this stage as due to information received from himself and a reference from the National Assembly of UK (where he lived before coming to Africa) that he was not active, nor involved in Ruhi process.
- **Dr. Simon Munro** and **Mrs. Helen Munro** of Scotland's offer of pioneering was communicated to our Committee and two other Continental Pioneer Committees, by the International Teaching Centre. Our Committee gave them some information on the possibilities that exist in their field of interest and asked themfor their CV and a reference from their National Assembly. We have not had any response from them.
- **Mrs. Farzaneh Mahtafar Presley** of USA went to Ethiopia for three months. She is exploring the possibilities of pioneering to Ethiopia at a later date.
- **Mrs. Kelley Pozzolo** of Canada and her children **Meaghan, Jeremiah** and **Myisha** went to Malawi for short term pioneering. **Mr. Joseph Pozzolo** joined them for a month during that period.
- **Mr. Tore Skatun** who had shown interest in six months of service in Lesotho settled in a South African Town close to Lesotho. He has been commuting to Lesotho for work, but not seen by the Community much.
- **Mr. Peter Smith** and **Mrs. Pat McCann-Smith** who have been serving at the Bahá'í World Centre and were considering to pioneer to Africa decided to prolong their services at the Bahá'í World Centre.

2.2 **Pioneering within Africa:**

- **Mr. Yohan Dhacoo** of Mauritius went to Madagascar as a short term pioneer. He later agreed to prolong his stay there by one year.
- **Mr. Tanamu Kahuli** of Rwanda offered to do international pioneering. Burundi was suggested by our Committee and DRC by the Cameroon Office for his pioneering. Due to his appointment as the assistant coordinator of the institute in Rwanda, he is no longer pursuing with his offer of international pioneering
- **Mr. Joel Mamadou** of Central African Republic, who is presently a pioneer in Gabon, will be staying in Gabon till end of September to assist with a teaching project and after that he may be returning to CAR
- **Mr. Ramraj** and **Mrs. Nancy Meetun** went as pioneers for a period of two years to Madagascar together with their baby daughter.

- **Mr. Ludovic Mootoosamy** of Mauritius went to Madagascar as a pioneer.

- **Mr. Roger Mukala** of DRC and his family's deputization for another 6 months to continue with their pioneering in Sao Tome and Principe was extended. Mr. Mukala is looking for ways becoming self supporting.
- **Mr. Bruce Mukumbi** and **Beatrice Mukumbi,** long-term pioneers from Democratic Republic of Congo to Guinea: A request for Mukumbi family's deputization to stay further in Guinea was made and approval for it sought. We were told later on that Mr. Mukumbi has started working with an international organization in Guinea.
- **Mr. Badi Mulumba** of South Africa offered to pioneer to a Francophone country in Africa. The possibility of his pioneering to Madagascar was considered, but this was not followed up as one of the references for him was negative. He was encouraged by the National Pioneer Committee for South Africa to do homefront pioneering instead. Our Committee recommended reference from the Counsellors on his suitability for such task.
- **Mr. Said Soltani** of USA went to Tanzania as a pioneer.
- **Mr. Foad Naimi** and **family** of South Africa went to Angola as pioneers five years ago. Although Mr. Naimi was transferred back to South Africa by the company he has been working with, but he and his family decided to continue staying in Angola. As a result Mr. Naimi lost his job. The family is trying alternatives for work to enable them to stay in Angola.
- **Mrs. Dawn Weyers** of South Africa offered to pioneer to Tanzania for 6 months. The requested deputization for her pioneering to Tanzania was not approved. Our Committee suggested that she assists with an intensive programme of growth in South Africa or considers Lesotho for her short term pioneering.

2.3 **<u>Pioneering from Africa to Other Continents</u>**:
The Committee is not aware of any cases.

9.3.0 **HOMEFRONT PIONEERING:** The cases known to our Committee:

3.1 **<u>Homefront Pioneering within the countries in Africa</u>:**
- **Mrs. Yirgalem W/Gabriel Abzghi** of Eritrea went homefront pioneering to Massawa (priority cluster).
- **Miss Valentine Dedombet** of Gabon went homefront pioneering.
- **Mr. Mphumelelo Bonginkosi Dvube** of Swaziland went homefront pioneering to a priority cluster.
- **Mr. Yohannes K/Mariam** of Eritrea went homefront pioneering to Keren cluster.
- **Tshepo Mathee** of South Africa in consultation with Counsellors offered to go for homefront pioneering to Gasegonyane, a priority cluster. We are not aware on whether he went there.
- **Mr. Ndayavugwa Marc** of Burundi went for homefront pioneering to Makamba (priority cluster).
- **Mrs. Fungai Mazengenya** of Zimbabwe went to homefront pioneering to Gokwe (priority cluster).
- **Miss Sithule Moyo** of Zimbabwe went to homefront pioneering to Bulawayo.

- **Mr. Xolani Tsela** of Swaziland went homefront pioneering to a priority cluster within his country.

3.2 **Homefront pioneering projects:**

- The National Spiritual Assembly of **Tanzania** requested financial assistance for a **homefront pioneering project** in their country. The project and provision of assistance to 7 proposed pioneers were approved by the International Teaching Centre and the approved deputization provided to the National Spiritual Assembly of Tanzania.

9.4.0 **TRAVEL TEACHERING:** The cases known to our Committee are:

4.1 **<u>From other Continents to Africa:</u>**

- **Ms. Margot Laberge-Hall** went to Tanzania for three months of service.
- **Ms Roya Eshraghi** of Costa Rica has shown interest in a visit to Malawi.
- **Orien Aid Youth Group** (a group of youth from USA and Canada) who were trying to go for two months to Angola for travel teaching last year wrote to our Committee again to find out about the opportunities of service in Angola. Our Committee encouraged them to serve in Angola or Madagascar as an alternative.
- **Ms. Emaleen Kriel** offered to go to Lesotho. The Admin Committee of Lesotho encouraged her to assist with their teaching campaign.

4.2 **<u>Travel Teaching within Africa:</u>**

- **Mr. Khye Seng Goh** of South Africa went to Mozambique for a short trip for his work and for travel teaching.
- **Mrs. Kamachee Martel** of Lesotho offered to do a month of service in Mozambique. She was not able to go there in June/ July as she planned to go. She is still looking for an opportunity to go there.
- **Mr. Pierre Martel** of Lesotho has been assisting with the statistical programmes during his work trips to Mozambique.

4.3 **<u>Travel Teaching from Africa to Other Continents</u>:**

The Committee is not aware of any cases.

9.5.0 **RESOURCE PERSONS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS**:

5.1 **<u>Resource persons' movements</u> <u>within Africa</u>**

- **Mr**. **Michael Musonda** of Zambia went to South Africa to assist with the development of Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program.

9.6.0 **YEAR OF SERVICE:** The cases known to our Committee are:

6.1 **<u>From other Continents to Africa:</u>**

- **Ms. Roya Ansari** of USA advised our Committee that she will be doing her youth year of service at Banani Secondary school in Zambia

from August 2008 to July 2009.

- **Miss Elham Azadeh** of Canada has offered to serve for six months in Ethiopia and to assist at 'One Planet International School' in Ethiopia beginning in August this year.
- **Ms. Soha C Badiei** is planning to serve at one of the Bahá'í Schools in Swaziland.
- **Mr. David Marx Conow** of USA went to Namibia for his period of service. Due to visa restrictions may not be able to stay there for his full period of service. Our Committee suggested to him to divide his time between Namibia and Lesotho and put him in touch with the Administrative Committee of Lesotho.
- **Ms. Cecily Anne David** of USA went to Uganda for a period of youth service.
- **Miss Safa Greta Majidi-Sheppherd** of USA offered to do a period of youth service in Tanzania starting immediately till the beginning of July 2008. Mozambique was re commended to her in addition to Tanzania.
- **Miss Darya Skrenes** showed interest in devoting a period of service from September to December 2008 close to an area where she can also serve in a local health care system. She is now considering Rwanda for her period of service.
- **Mr. Dylan Sheper** of DRC, who is presently studying in Czech Republic and is interested to do a year of service at the end of this year was encouraged by the International Pioneer Committee of Canada to contact our Committee or the National Assembly of DRC.
- **Mr. Thomas Tasha** of Canada offered to do a couple of months of service. Our Committee recommended Lesotho. She eventually decided to serve in the UK.
- **Ms. Kaitlyn Elaine** and **Mr. Daniel Paul Platner** are planning to do a year of service in Tanzania, at the Ruaha Secondary School.
- **Ms. Maren Stachnic** of Canada is planning to serve in Ethiopia and assist at 'One Planet International School' from January 2009 to July 2009.
- **Miss Mae Carmel Walters** is exploring the possibility of serving in Zambia, Tanzania, Lesotho or a country in another Continent.

6.2 **<u>Year of Service within Africa</u>:**

- **Mr. Samora Ziphete** of South Africa offered to do a period of service in Africa. Our Committee recommended Lesotho to him. He decided to do part of his service in Lesotho and the other part in South Africa. He went to Lesotho in early July, for two months, to assist with their intensive programmes of growths.

9.7.0 **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

7.1 **<u>Quarterly Financial Reports</u>** were sent on regular basis to the International Teaching Centre.

7.2 **<u>Administrative budget</u>** of the Committee for 2008-2009 was submitted to the International Teaching Centre and was approved.

9.8.0 **INFORAMTION MANAGEMENT:**

8.1 Information available to the Committee regarding some countries in Africa or employment opportunities were shared with prospective pioneers/ travel teachers where and when necessary.

9.9.0 **VARIOUS**:

9.1 Letters were sent to the National Assemblies of **South Africa** and **Botswana** letting them know about the progress made in many parts of Africa in deploying homefront pioneers to assist with their intensive programmes of growth. They were asked whether our Committee can be of assistance with their homefront pioneering programmes.

The Committee did not continue with approaching any other National Assemblies on this matter, as we were advised by a member of the International Teaching Centre of the preference of the Teaching Centre that homefront pioneering takes its natural course, and that the institutions are driven by the need rather than feeling pressurized.

9.2 **Request for pioneers/ travelling teachers**:

- The Spiritual Assembly of Botswana requested our Committee to look for a potential candidate, who would **assist them as the National Office secretary**, and **experienced tutors** to conduct intensive institute courses in different parts of their country. Their request was communicated to the National Assembly of South Africa, asking them to share this information with the friends who may be interested in short or long term service in Botswana.

- National Assembly of Madagascar requested us to look for a pensioner Iranian couple as **caretakers for their new Bahá'í Centre,** which is nearing completion. The information was conveyed to National Assembly of France, US Office of International Pioneering and the International Pioneer Committee of Canada.

- National Assembly of Swaziland wrote to our Committee regarding the **vacancy for a Director at the Bahá'í Schools** in Mbabane. Their request was shared with the US Office of International Pioneering and International Pioneer Committee of Canada

- Counsellor Makhele forwarded a request from one of the Auxiliary Board Members in South Africa for a **Swazi Speaking resource person for Mbombela cluster**. Our Committee contacted an Auxiliary Board Member in Swaziland to find out if there are friends from there who can assist with such task.

- National Spiritual Assembly of Equatorial Guinea requested for assistance in identifying and/ or assisting potential pioneers to relocate to three of their five priority clusters. Our Committee offered

assistance, where necessary, to homefront pioneers who they may identify.

- Cameroon Office asked for our Committee's assistance to identify an international pioneer to coordinate the Sierra Leone training institute at national level. It was recommended that they contact the DRC Pioneer Committee for assistance in identifying such person from their country.

9.3 International Pioneer Committee of Canada/ Youth Services International was advised about the great need for offers of service to be directed to countries in Africa, where Portuguese is commonly used and also to countries such as Lesotho and Madagascar. Our Committee offered to assist them when recommending countries for consideration of the prospective pioneers.

9.4 **National Pioneer Committee of South Africa** has been in touch with our Committee consulting on some issues. In one of their emails they mentioned that they hope to encourage 50 friends to arise as homefront pioneers and travel teachers in various parts of the country.

9.5 Our Committee continued receiving copies of email communication regarding the **Louis Gregory Learning Centre** in Lesotho, which at times involved information on pioneers to Lesotho.

9.6 Contact was maintained with the Continental Pioneer Committee for Africa, Cameroon Office.

Respectfully submitted.

Flora Teckie
Secretary